

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Application/Control Number: 09/974,513

Art Unit: 3723

1. The amendments filed February 14, 2005 has not been entered. The reply filed on February 14, 2005 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

2. The **substitute specification**, filed February 14, 2005, has not been entered. A substitute specification must be made in the following manner:

The specification, other than the claims, may also be amended by submitting:

- (i) An instruction to replace the specification; and
- (ii) A substitute specification in compliance with § 1.125(b) and (c).

A substitute specification submitted under this section must be submitted with markings showing all the changes relative to the immediate prior version of the specification of record. The text of any added subject matter must be shown by underlining the added text. The text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through except that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters may be used to show deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters. The text of any deleted subject matter must be shown by being placed within double brackets if strike-through cannot be easily perceived. An accompanying clean version (without markings) must also be supplied. Numbering the paragraphs of the specification of record is not considered a change that must be shown pursuant to this paragraph.

- 3. Applicant's new claims are written in improperly dependent form. Dependent claims must further limit a **previous** claim, see 37 CFR 1.75(c). Claims cannot depend upon themselves or non-existent claims.
- 4. Applicant's time period continues to run from the previous Office action, mailed January 26, 2005. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra S Meislin whose telephone number is 571 272-4487. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, alt. Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 571 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Debra S Meislin Primary Examiner Art Unit 3723

May 2, 2005